

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
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-----280046Z 068021 /70

R 271340Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4333
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV ET SU

SUBJECT: GOS/EPMG RELATIONS

1. IN LENGTHY DISCUSSION JANUARY 27, ACTING SUDANESE CONSUL
GENERAL ABDELMONIEM MUSTAFA ELAMIN, REVIEWED FOR ME WHOLE RANGE
OF SUDANESE-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS UP TO PRESENT. ELAMIN, AS COUN-
SELOR OF SUDANESE EMBASSY IN ADDIS FOR PAST TWO YEARS, HAS BEEN
INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN STEP-BY-STEP DEVOLUTION OF THIS RELATION-
SHIP. HIS ACCOUNT IS REplete WITH EXAMPLES OF HOW DIFFICULT IT
HAS BEEN FOR HIS GOVT TO DETERMINE JUST WHAT POLICY THE EPMG
WAS FOLLOWING TOWARD SUDAN. AT NO TIME HAS SUDAN BEEN CONFIDENT
THAT SENIOR EPMG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DIRG MEMBERS, EITHER ON
VISIT TO KHARTOUM OR IN ADDIS WERE IN FACT SPEAKING FOR MORE THAN
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JUST A FACTION IN THE RULING CLIQUE. REPEATED INCONSISTENCIES
BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL DEMARCHES, PUBLIC STATEMENTS, OFFICIALLY
SANCTIONED PRESS ACCOUNTS, AND MILITARY ACTIONS HAVE BY NOW SO
CONFUSED SUDANESE OFFICIALS THAT THE GOS IS VERY WARY OF RELYING
ON EPMG STATEMENTS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, AND CAN DETECT NO UNDER-
LYING COHERENCY IN ETHIOPIA'S POLICY TOWARD IT. SUDAN HAS HESIT-
ATED TO ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT THE EPMG IS FUNDAMENTALLY COMMITTED

TO HOSTILITY TOWARD SUDAN AND HAS BEEN INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT ETHIOPIA'S UNDENIABLE SUPPORT OF THE ANSARS AND LIBYA AGAINST SUDAN WAS NOT A CONCERTED DIRG POLICY BUT RATHER THE WORK OF ONE "WING" ONLY. THIS FAITH IS, HOWEVER, WEARING THIN AND GOS RECENT OUTBURSTS ARE DESIGNED TO WARN THE EPMG THAT SUCH A POLICY IS NARROWLY SHORT-SIGHTED, PARTICULARLY WHEN LOGICALLY ETHIOPIA SHOULD BE SEEKING ALL THE SUPPORT IT CAN GARNER FROM ITS NEIGHBORS FOR ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS DJIBOUTI THIS SUMMER, PRESUMABLY A GUT ISSUE FOR THE EPMG.

2. ELAMIN SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING THE HELP OF OTHER INTERESTED AFRICAN STATES IN "MEDIATING" (HIS WORD) THIS DEVELOPING CONFRONTATION WITH ETHIOPIA.

3. ELAMIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EPMG HAD SOME CAUSE FOR ITS OWN SUSPICIONS OF THE GOS ATTITUDE TOWARD ETHIOPIA, SUSPECTING THAT "ARAB PETROLEUM DOLLARS" WERE INFLUENCING THE GOS TO FUNNEL ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THE ERITREAN INSURGENT GROUPS. ELAMIN INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS SINCERE IN ITS WILLINGNESS TO HELP ARRANGE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR ERITREA AND WAS NOT SEEKING TO SUPPORT A BREAK-AWAY PROVINCE. SINCE RELATIONS HAD NOW DETERIORATED TO THE POINT WHERE NEITHER GOVERNMENT TRUSTED THE OTHER, THE GOS WAS TRYING TO ELICIT SUPPORT FROM NEIGHBORING AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO MEDIATE AND RESTORE SOME MEASURE OF SANITY TO THIS RELATIONSHIP.

4. COMMENT: ELAMIN MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE GOS WAS DETERMINED TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO PREVENT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSER ETHIOPIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS.

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